

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending at the time of the mailing of the outstanding Office Action. By this amendment, no claims have been amended. Claims 6-8 and 12-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. This Amendment is also filed with a Notice of Appeal and a Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review. Because the amendments presented herein simplify matters under consideration for appeal, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is proper.

The outstanding Office action was transmitted on 2 November 2007. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 months from the mailing date. No extension of time or accompanying fee is believed to be due in making this response because February 2, 2008 fell on a Saturday and this response is timely filed on the next business day, February 4, 2008. Nevertheless, the Applicants hereby make a conditional petition for an extension of time for response in the event that such a petition is required. No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of his response is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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